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when they intermarry are less prolific, are all important matters for consideration; but it must not be too hastily assumed that they are really facts, without further observation. The paper was no doubt valuable and interesting, and he hoped that Mr. Pritchard would contribute others on the same subject and be present when they were read to make further observations personally.

Dr. SEEMANN undertook to reply to some of the observations that had been made on the paper, which Mr. Pritchard had written at his request. He said he could confirm by his own observation the curious fact that the natives on the coast are a finer set of men than those in the interior. He ascribed it to the food on the coast being more abundant, and the people better fed; for there they had an abundant supply of cocoa-nut and fish. He, indeed, ascribed a great deal to the effect of difference of food. The Esquimaux, for example, were very different in different parts of America. In the west, where food was plentiful, they were tall and strong, many of them being six feet high; while in the east, where food was scarce, they were very diminutive. He thought there could be little doubt that mental culture produces great influence on the physical appearance of people, and that principally was what Mr. Pritchard meant to say. He did not agree with him in his remarks on the half-castes. With respect to the question whether the offices of priests and chiefs were hereditary, he observed that they are strictly so; but that when a man becomes distinguished by any act of daring or otherwise, he is allowed to marry a chief's daughter. In such a case, however, he himself cannot rise to the dignity of a chief, but his children may.

The thanks of the meeting were then given to the author of the paper and to Dr. Seemann for having induced him to contribute it, and for the explanations he had given.

The following paper was then read:—

Notes on Further Remains from Keiss, near Wick. By JOHN ANDERSON, Esq. (Communicated by GEO. E. ROBERTS, Esq., F.G.S., Hon. Sec. A.S.L.) With a Note on the Human Skull, by C. CARTER BLAKE, Esq., F.G.S.

Notes on the Weapons. Nos. 1 to 7 inclusive, are the contents of a kist from the "burial mound" (described by Mr. Laing) at Stain, near Keiss. The kist differed in no way from those previously opened. It was rudely formed of beach stones placed on edge and covered over, from four to six stones forming the length of the grave. The body had been laid, as in the others, on the sandy bottom. The sand was wet, however, and the skull would not lift. The weapons, etc., are two small spear-heads, two arrow-heads, a small hatchet-shaped piece of quartz, a deer-horn handle, and an oblong stone worn at both ends by use as a hammer or pestle. Both the spear-heads are rubbed or scraped to shape, the arrow-heads are only rudely chipped, and the quartz cutting instrument is fashioned solely by chipping. The finest spear-head, from its appearance at the helve, seems to have been inserted into a socket on the shaft. In the shell-

mounds, Mr. Laing found a number of short perforated cylinders of bone or deer-horn; and, looking at these spear and arrow-heads, it is obvious that one of the readiest methods of affixing them to a shaft would be by letting them into one end of such a short, light, cylinder of bone, which would only require to be tightly pushed on to the end of a rod and the weapon was complete, whether it was intended for throwing by hand or projection from a bow. Perhaps the deer-horn handle (?) found in this kist may belong to the quartz implement which lay beside it. If so, it may have served as a chisel or scraper for bringing up the edges and points of the weapons. The flat spear-head, especially, appears to have been so scraped rather than ground. The marks on it are those of erosion rather than abrasion; the scratches run parallel, and over the hollows as well as the prominences of the surface. I may add that this deer-horn handle (?) was unfortunately scraped by the knife of the workman who found it, to remove the incrustation, under the impression that it was a wooden tool he had found. I was not present at the opening of either of the kists whose contents I have sent. They were opened at my request by Mr. Sang, gardener, Keiss, after Mr. Laing had left.

Nos. 8 to 12 inclusive, were taken from a kist on one of the Bickle Hills (the "places of worship or sacrifice" mentioned by Mr. Laing), and are much ruder, and perhaps of earlier date than the former. The kist was more megalithic in character than the others; but it had been partially opened years ago, and the skeleton disturbed. At my request, Mr. Sang re-examined it, and found the weapons in the undisturbed sand at the bottom. It is curious that a chipped hatchet-like instrument of quartz (?) should occur again in this kist. The larger spear-head is extremely rude, and the smaller curiously curved. The large knife (?) struck from a boulder, may have done duty with difficulty for sacrificial purposes, but it does not seem a very effective weapon. The smaller knife (?) of sandstone, shows more adaptive ingenuity, as the natural fracture of the stone is brought to a keen edge throughout, by the other side being ground flat. The heavy round stone may have been a sling-stone. The hammer or pestle from this kist is remarkable for its shape and the exactly circular spot worn on one of its ends by use. The blows that produced these marks, one would think, must not only have been lightly delivered, but delivered upon something pointed. It is as if the person wielding the instrument exerted some skill, so as to strike always with the same force and a definite aim upon some other instrument. These hammers or pestles, of oblong shore pebbles, are found in the shell-heaps or connected with the dwellings, as well as in the kists; and the one sent by Mr. Peach from the "Pict's House" at Old Stirkoke, must have been intended for a child's hand. Its ends are more irregularly marked, as are also those of the less elegant one from the shell-mound at Keiss.

Nos. 17 to 20 inclusive, are from the shell-mound at Keiss. The knife-like instrument is very similar to one obtained from one of the kists subsequently by Mr. Gill of Blingery, near Wick.

The bone pin and flint chip, No. 36, are from Birkle Hill. The

absence of flint *weapons* in the grave, suggests the inquiry whether these be not anterior to the age of the finely fashioned flint weapons occasionally found in Caithness. Flints are not rare on the beach and in the boulder clay; and *the surface* of Birkle Hill is covered with chips, as if there had been a manufactory there. I found, also, an agate, rudely chipped into a hatchet form, among the flints. A few pieces of flint have been found in the shell-mounds; but, so far as I know, no manufactured flint weapons or implements.

In regard to the cannibal idea, the hypothesis, or rather inference, seems to be strengthened by the fact that the occurrence of detached portions of human remains in the refuse of the food of these aboriginal inhabitants of Caithness, *is the rule, and not the exception, so far as these refuse-heaps have yet been examined*. Mr. Rhind found them in a "hole among ashes and bones" at the Kettleburn "Pict's House", near Wick; Mr. Peach and myself found them among ashes and bones of animals in the refuse-heaps of shells, etc., at Old Stirkoke (if the pieces of skull now sent prove to be human, as I fancy they are); and Mr. Laing has found them in *two* shell-heaps at Keiss.

The skull sent was taken from a kist in the "burial-mound", which, unfortunately, was not examined for weapons, so that I am unable to say whether there were any along with it or not. J. A.

Notes on the Human Skull. The skull does not present any special affinity or resemblance to those described by Mr. Laing from the same locality, any more than is possessed by those of the existing races of North Britain. The skull is long, and the upper portion of the supra-occipital bone is very prominent; in this respect rather resembling the "kumbecephalic" skulls of Professor Wilson than do any of the other skulls from Caithness, or from the so-called "river-bed" skulls. The upper semicircular line and occipital ridge are well marked. There is no vestige of paroccipital, and the mastoid processes are exceedingly small; their diminution giving an undue apparent depth to the actually very deep postcondyloid foramina. The maxillary indicates a markedly orthognathic physiognomy. Slight supraciliary ridges overhang a moderately deep supranasal notch, not unduly deepened, as in the Shetland, nor really flattened, as in the other Caithness skulls. The nasal bones are well produced. Slight obliteration extends along the sagittal suture and around the upper corner of the lambdoid, which has contained a small *os triquetrum*. All the molars in place show marked signs of erosion. The mandible is rather slender, with a very high coronoid process.

I should doubt strongly whether the skull is not of a very modern age, and do not consider it to be allied to those described by Mr. Laing from Caithness, or to those from Shetland. C. C. B.

Thanks were given to Mr. Anderson and Mr. Carter Blake.

An abstract of a paper *On the Anthropology of Linnaeus*, by Mr. Bendyshe, was then read. The paper is inserted in the first volume of *Memoirs*.

The thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. Bendyshe for the paper.